

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 SAM-01 /108 W
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R 290800Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1415

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TRIPOLI 0833

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFRO, LY, EG

SUBJECT: LIBYAN COMPLAINTS OVER EGYPTIAN CONTACTS
WITH WESTERN DESERT TRIBE

1. MAHOUD ABU WAFIA'S MISSION TO WESTERN DESERT
(TRIPOLI 813) CONTINUES TO SET OFF SPARKS HERE. PRESS
JULY 28 CARRIES TEXT OF A MESSAGE SENT BY LIBYAN ASU
TO EGYPTIAN PEOPLE'S COUNCIL COMPLAINING BITTERLY
ABOUT ABU WAFIA'S ACTIVITIES. MESSAGE CHARGES HE
HAS BEEN INCITING MEMBERS OF THE "LIBYAN" AWLAD ALI
TRIBE AGAINST COLONEL QADHAFI, AND PIOUSLY (BUT UN-
CONVINCINGLY) EXPRESSES HOPE THAT ABU WAFIA ACTED AS
AN INDIVIDUAL, AND WAS NOT PUT UP TO JOB BY PRESIDENT
SADAT. FOR ITS PART, LIBYA WILL NEVER GIVE FREE REIN
TO ENEMIES OF EGYPT AND ARAB UNITY.

2. ABU WAFIA (ALWAYS DESCRIBED AS SADAT'S BROTHER
IN LAW) IS ALSO SUBJECT OF A SECOND ARTICLE. IT
ALLEGES THAT HE CALLED AWLAD ALI SHEIKHS AND
TRIBESMEN "TRAITORS AND AGENTS", AND APPEALED TO
THEM TO BE MORE LOYAL. QUOTING "INFORMED SOURCES", IT
SAYS THAT TRIBESMEN REFUSED TO BE TALKED TO IN THIS
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WAY, AND THREATENED TO COMPLAIN TO HIGHER AUTHORITIES,

WHICH LED ABU WAFIA TO APOLOGIZE IN PRESENCE OF GOVERNOR FROM MERSA MATRUH. ARTICLE ALSO SAYS THAT TRAVELLERS FROM MERSA MATRUH REPORT WIDESPREAD ARREST OF PROMINENT WESTERN DESERT CITIZENS AS A RESULT OF THEIR "ARAB" STANDS, AND PREDICTS DARKLY THAT WAVE OF ARRESTS MAY SPREAD "SALUM TO AL AMARIYA".

3. COMMENT: LIBYAN ATTACKS ON SADAT ARE NOW VERY DIRECT AND PERSONNEL. DESPITE PRESS REPORTS FROM CAIRO, HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT THERE IS ANY CAMPAIGN BY LIBYAN AUTHORTIES TO HARASS EGYPTIANS HERE. STEIN

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Message Attributes

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